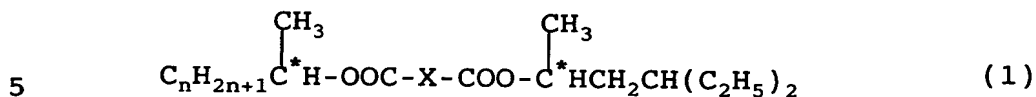


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

An optically active compound of the general formula (1),



wherein n is an integer of 4 to 8, X is -Ph-COO-Ph-
 Ph-, -Ph-Ph-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-OOC-Ph-,
 -Ph-Ph-Ph-, -Cy-COO-Ph-Ph-, -Ph-Ph-OOC-Cy-, -Ph-OOC-Ph-
 COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Cy-COO-Ph-, -Ph-OOC-Np-COO-Ph-, -Np-
 10 OOC-Ph- or -Ph-COO-Np- in which -Ph- is a 1,4-phenylene
 group, -Cy- is a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group and -Np-
 is a 2,6-naphthylene group, and C* is an asymmetric
 carbon,

and a nematic liquid crystal composition containing the
 15 above optically active compound.

According to the present invention, there is
 provided a nematic liquid crystal composition containing
 the optically active compound having a helical twisting
 power (HTP) of 10 or more and giving a chiral dopant for
 20 a nematic liquid crystal, which chiral dopant has a
 property that the pitch of its induced helix decreases
 in length with an increase in temperature.